

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

December 2014 Edition

Welcome!

The holidays have arrived and what a wonderful time to spend with family and friends! As you prepare for a special Thanksgiving break, I wanted to share this newsletter which highlights upcoming events and ways to get and stay involved throughout the year. I will also be posting updates when available to my FB page so I encourage you to "[Like](#)" me to stay informed or register for updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Know of any upcoming events you'd like to see highlighted here? Please email me the details to cbball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already registered to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter, community centers, athletic centers, activity rooms, historic sites, parks, senior centers and the landfill will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on **Thursday, November 27**. There will be no trash, recycling, yard trim or food scrap pick-up on Thanksgiving Day; the County's [holiday "slide" schedule](#) will be in effect. The landfill and parks will re-open Friday, November 28; however, County Government offices, courts, senior centers, historic sites and animal shelter will remain closed. While the community centers, athletic centers and activity rooms will be closed on Friday to the general public, they will be open for scheduled special or permit approved events. Parking meters will be free on November 27, but all parking regulations and fees will be in effect on November 28. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) buses will not run on Thanksgiving Day, but will resume a regular weekday schedule on Friday. For more information on [RTA](#), please call **1-800-270-9553**.

The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, please call **410-313-2200**. County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Monday, December 1**.



6th Annual Clothing Drive!

The 6th annual clothing drive is an inspiring opportunity driven by the youth to give back to the community. Through **November 30th**, collection boxes will be stationed at: all 10 village community association buildings, Columbia Art Center, 6100 Foreland Garth in the Long reach Village Center, Youth & Teen Center at The Barn, 5853 Robert Oliver Place and Eggspectations Restaurant, 6010 University Blvd in Ellicott City. Individuals can donate new or gently used clothes, shoes and accessories including but not limited to ties, belts, hosiery, hats, gloves, pocketbooks and jewelry. Also important, are coats and socks, children's clothes and career clothes for both men and women. These donated items will be sorted and distributed to community members in need on **Saturday, January 17th 9am-2pm** and **Sunday, January 18th 11am-2:30pm** at The Barn, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.



37th Annual Midnight Madness!

Join Howard County Tourism, the Ellicott City Business Association and the Ellicott City Restoration Foundation for the official tree lighting and opening of the 37th annual Midnight Madness, Historic Ellicott City's signature seasonal shopping event. Overflow parking will be available at the George Howard Building and the Circuit Court House, and a free shuttle service will be provided to and from both locations from 6:00 p.m. to midnight.

The tree lighting will take place in front of the **Howard County Welcome Center, 8267 Main Street in Ellicott City on Friday, December 5, 2014 at 6pm**. Visitors can enjoy a wonderful shopping experience 6pm-midnight. For details, call Deborah at 443-240-2060 or email dkorb@ecpartnership.org.

2nd Annual Lighting of Historic Bollman Truss Bridge!



On **Saturday, December 6, 2014 5:30-7:30pm**, Historic Savage Mill will light the Bollman Truss Bridge, an antique iron truss bridge that is a national historic landmark for the second year! A lighting ceremony will local dignitaries and community members will take place at 5:30pm starting at the bridge and will be followed by a community tree-lighting celebration at the historic Carroll Baldwin Hall Commons. All are invited to be a part of this special event. This special event is brought to you by Historic Savage Mill in cooperation with the Savage Community Association, The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, and Howard County Tourism.

Support Local – Shop Small Business Saturday!

Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to promote shopping small and local as well as helping small businesses prepare for the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. This **Saturday, November 29th**, consider supporting our local, participating small businesses in our community. For more details, visit <https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/Shop-Small/>



42nd Annual Holiday Mart!

Looking for that special gift this holiday season? Come celebrate the 42nd annual Holiday Mart this **Saturday, December 6th 10am-5pm** at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97** in Cooksville. Purchase unique and unusual handcrafted items and home décor from over 140 crafters. There will be door prizes, a children's craft corner, complimentary gift wrapping, coat and package check, food for purchase and a shuttle service to and from Bushy Park ES. For more details, contact **Heather Sites** at 410-313-4845.

MEDICARE & ACA Open Enrollment Has Begun!

Through **December 7, 2014** ALL residents with Medicare are invited to modify their Medicare health plan and prescription drug coverage for 2014. Individuals receiving Medicare can call **1-800-MEDICARE** or visit www.medicare.gov for plan information. If a person is satisfied that their current plan will meet their needs for next year, they don't need to do anything. In Howard County, we are hosting Open Enrollment opportunities at several locations including The Bain Center, Ellicott City Senior Center, Glenwood 50+ Center and North Laurel 5+ Center all by appointment only. Residents who qualify for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have until **February 15, 2015** to apply or re-enroll. Go [online](#) to create an account or call Maryland's Connection's Consumer Support Center at 1-855-642-8572.

Community Meetings on Master Plan for the Aging Population Initiative!

Our Department of Citizen Services invites you to join a series of community meetings to discuss the status of the County's Master Plan for the Aging Population. The 20-year Master Plan is a comprehensive planning initiative to design the types of services, programs and facilities that will be needed to address the future needs of this growing segment of the County's population. The initiative has thus far included a community survey, a series of focus groups and input from a wide array of stakeholders. The goal is to guide Howard County's short and long term investments in programs, services and facilities for the County's older adult population.

The Department will host two meetings on **Monday, December 8**; the first will be **1-3pm** at the **North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road** and the second **7-9pm** at **The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way** in Columbia. A third meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 9th 2-4pm** at the **Ellicott City Senior Center, 9401 Frederick Road**.

To request a sign language interpreter or other accommodations to attend the update meetings, please call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400. For more information about the Master Plan, call 410-313-6535, e-mail aging@howardcountymd.gov or go [online](#).

Symphony of Lights!

The Symphony of Lights is a spectacular display of 70 larger-than-life, animated and stationary light creations. It is a treasured community tradition and a “must-see” during the holiday season. Driving through, enjoy a beautiful 20-30 minute annual display of holiday light creations, illuminated by a fantasy of color, design and animation. Delightful for all ages!



This spectacular event runs through **Sunday, January 4, 2015**. Open 6 days/week, Wednesdays-Mondays 6-10pm including holidays. CLOSED on Tuesdays and December 31st for the Midnight at 7 event. Cost is \$20/car (up to 8 seats). For more details, go [online](#).

SHA Deploys SafeZones Automated Speed Enforcement on US29 in Howard County!

In an ongoing effort to improve work zone safety, the Maryland State Police (MSP) and the State Highway Administration (SHA) will deploy the [Maryland SafeZones Automated Speed Enforcement system](#) at the northbound US 29 widening project that extends three miles from Seneca Drive (north of MD 32) to south of MD 175 in Howard County. Large signs are in place in advance of the work zones to alert drivers of automated speed enforcement use. Crews will also place a “speed trailer” to display the posted speed limit and drivers’ speeds in advance of the enforcement vehicle.

Maryland *SafeZones* automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras will be deployed along US 29 beginning **Monday, December 1**. A 21-day warning period will follow, and MSP will authorize citations starting **Monday, December 22**. The speed limit in the work zone is posted at 55 mph. Drivers excessively speeding by 12 or more miles over the speed limit, or 67 mph or more, face a \$40 civil citation. Where *SafeZones* has been deployed, speeding violations have decreased by more than 90 percent. ASE is currently deployed in 11 other work zones in the State. For more information, please visit www.safezones.maryland.gov.

Current work includes excavation for a new lane in the median area. Upcoming work will include base paving in the median area and overnight patching work on NB US 29 between MD 32 and Broken Land Parkway. Lane closures are in effect M-F 9am-3pm and night work may occur each night between 8pm-5am. The project is anticipated to be complete in **fall 2016**. More information about the project is available [online](#).

While SHA and its partners work hard to maintain safe traffic mobility in work zones, each driver needs to actively modify his or her driving style to help prevent crashes. Stay alert – look for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and highway workers. Slow down and don't follow too closely. Safer Driving. Safer Work Zones. For Everyone!

Downtown Columbia Arts & Culture Commission Accepting 2014 Grant Applications!

The Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission has begun accepting 2015 grants applications! Grants are available to non-for-profit arts and cultural organizations that present or produce in Downtown Columbia, are for project support only and are expected to support activities in the fiscal year they’re awarded. Online grant applications will remain open until the grantmaking budget for the year has been exhausted and all applications will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Commission’s Board of Directors. For more details or if you have questions, email ColumbiaMDarts@gmail.com or go [online](#).

17th Annual Holiday Train Display!



The Department will hold its 17th annual holiday train display **December 6-January 4** (closed December 25). **Wed-Fri 6:30-8:30pm** and **Sat-Sun 11am-8:30pm** at the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department, Station #2, 4150 Montgomery Rd in Ellicott City. Admission is FREE but donations are welcome. New, unwrapped toys for needy children are being collected Dec 6-22 and can be dropped off at the Train Garden or any HC Fire Station. To schedule a group tour, call **410-313-2036**. OPEN Christmas Eve 11am-4pm. CLOSED Christmas Day; OPEN New Year’s Eve and Day 11am-8:30pm.

Setting Limits Without Guilt – Parenting Workshop!

There are many different parenting styles; some may be too firm and some may be too lenient. What is the right balance and how do you keep your relationship intact with your child while making sure they do the right thing? Create stronger adult-child connections to support emotional/mental health while learning brain-body-heart connections which relate to emotional growth, the chemical basis for how and why to shift from relying on fear to relying on love in discipline, and strategies to use when life does not go as we planned or expected. See how this shift creates stronger adult-child connections, which supports emotional/mental health. **Cost: \$15.**

This two part series will be held **Mondays, December 1 & 8 6:30-8:30pm** at 3300 North Ridge Rd, Suite 240 in Ellicott City, MD. For more information or to register, email children@howardcountymd.gov, call 410-313-1940 or go [online](#).



BRAC – BBI Update!

In the next few months, the Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC) will be making program changes that will finalize the transition of the functions performed by the Base Business Initiative (BBI) to its partner organizations in the surrounding region. The BBI was born of necessity in 2009, during the height of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities that were impacting Fort Meade. Small businesses seeking to serve as contractors and sub-contractors needed accurate information on opportunities, a forum for meeting potential partners and access to technical assistance. We believe the BBI has done an outstanding job in delivering these services.

However, both federal and local resources directed to the BBI are now winding down. With this, the RGMC and participating counties are working hard to insure that the BBI's valuable services and lessons learned are retained and absorbed. Over the next few months, the BBI will be working closely with partnering organizations and government agencies. On **December 11th** from **8:30am-10:00am** at **The Other Barn** (5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, Maryland 21045), the BBI will be inviting these organizations and agencies to profile their service to all of you, the member businesses of the BBI. This will be the **final** Monthly Meeting of the BBI Program. More details on this event will be provided in the future.

Over the next month, Kellyann Few, BBI Director, will continue to serve as the point of contact for all inquiries for business and constituents seeking information and assistance in conjunction with activities associated with BBI. Kellyann can be reached at **410-313-0843** or kfew@howardcountymd.gov.

FY16 Citizens' Budget Hearing!

County Executive-Elect Kittleman will hold his first Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY2016 budget cycle on **Wednesday, December 17, 2013 at 7pm** in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, **3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City**. Residents are invited to submit testimony and advocate for funding for community projects at this time.

Spotlight on Village Events!

Oakland Mills 2014 Upcoming Events:



Jazz in the Mills @ The Other Barn

Jazz in the Mills 2014 Concert Series brings acclaimed Jazz performers to the Other Barn in Oakland Mills. Only on **December 7** featuring Esther and Davey Yarborough. Jazz in the Mills is held at **The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045**. All concerts are **from 5pm – 7pm**. Wine, soft drinks and snacks are available for purchase. For more info, contact Sandy Cederbaum at manager@oaklandmills.org.

Polar Express @ The Other Barn

Experience the magic of *The Polar Express*, brought to life at The Other Barn. Through a 4-D presentation, the audience will “journey” through the pages of this exciting story on the way to the North Pole. Santa will come aboard to meet each child and give the “first gift of Christmas.” Fill the air with Christmas carols and the joy of the upcoming season. This event will be held on **Thursday, December 4th & Friday December 5th at 5:30 & 7:30pm**. Kids wear your “pjs” and adults can too! Ticket price is **\$5/person** for everyone ages 1 and up (infants under 1 year must sit on an adults lap). Tickets go on sale beginning November 3rd at The Other Barn and there will be a limit of 10 per person given the popularity of the event. For details, contact **Susan Azoulay** at 410-730-4610 or email rentals@oaklandmills.org.

Nutcracker on Ice @ CA Ice Rink

The Columbia Figure Skating Club will feature the Nutcracker on Ice at the CA Ice Rink in Oakland Mills during the weekend of **December 13th and 14th**. Show times on **Saturday, December 13th** are **5:30pm** and **7:15pm**; performances on **Sunday, December 14th** are **4:30pm** and **6pm**. For tickets and more information, please see the club's website: www.columbiafsc.com

Breakfast with Santa at The Other Barn

Enjoy a hot breakfast, holiday craft, and photo with Santa! This is a wonderful family event during the holiday season and will be held on **Saturday, December 13th** with seatings at **9am** and **9:45am** at **The Other Barn**. The cost is **\$5** for CA residents and **\$5.50** for non-CA residents for everyone ages 2 and up. Tickets will be available at The Other Barn for Oakland Mills residents beginning **November 10th** and the general public beginning **November 17th**. For details, call **410-730-4610** or email events@oaklandmills.org

Rebuilding Together Howard County Offers FREE Home Repairs!

Volunteers from Rebuilding Together Howard County work to repair homes for low-income homeowners and their families. All types of FREE repairs are provided to include plumbing, electrical, carpentry, new appliance installation, painting, and the list goes on! A simple application is all you need to apply. Call **410-381-3338** or go [online](#) to get your application. Since 1992, over 700 Howard County homes have been repaired free of charge. The deadline to apply is **December 31, 2014**.

What to Know if You See Snow?

Now that the weather is changing, here are some helpful hints and reminders courtesy of Howard County's Department of Public Works:

Getting Plowed In

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb – about the length of a parking space – ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

Cars Parked on Public Streets

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges of our snow crews. County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.

Guard Against Flooding

Uncover and clear area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at 410-313-4900, which is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Clearing Your Sidewalks

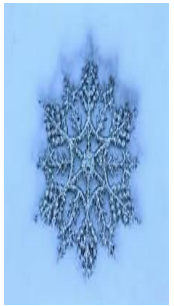
"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h). If you are willing to help remove snow for seniors or physically disabled individuals in your neighborhood, please call the Office on Aging – Maryland Access Point at 410-313-5980 to volunteer for the Snow Patrol Program. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you need assistance with snow removal and are 60 or older, or younger than 60 with a physical disability, and a resident of Howard County, you may register as a Snow Patrol client. New clients are put on a waiting list and are contacted only if a Snow Patrol volunteer in his/her area becomes available. To register as a client, call 410-313-5980.

Did It Snow On...

"Trash" Day? If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual – before 6am. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

"Recycling" Day? If it snows on your Recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recycled will be picked up the following week. To find out if trash or recycling collections were canceled for the day, call 410-313-SORT (7678).

Please be patient...



2015 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award!

Attention graduating seniors... Are you looking for a way to make college affordable? Columbia Association is now accepting application for the 2015 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award. Up to six \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from local high schools who have shown a history of providing community service to benefit Columbia residents and those in the Columbia area.

Students must live on CA-assessed property, or have a parent/guardian who works full-time on CA-assessed property. Applicants must be graduating in May/June 2015 from an accredited public, private or parochial high school and need to have a minimum of a "C" cumulative grade point average (2.0). Columbia Association employees, members of Board of Directors or family members of employees or members of the Board of Directors are not eligible to receive the award.

Applications are available [online](#). Completed applications must be submitted by **March 15, 2015**. For more information, call **410-715-3161** or email SpiritofColumbia@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Beware of Scams During Open Enrollment Season!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through Affordable Care Act (ACA) health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that may crop up during open enrollment seasons. Open enrollment for Medicare runs through **December 7, 2014** while the the ACA health exchange enrollment period ends **February 15, 2015**.

Last year, the Department's Office on Aging was alerted to insurance representatives who made illegal door-to-door "cold calls" to Medicare recipients, pitching supplemental insurance that did not meet their needs. Meanwhile, the Office of Consumer Affairs learned that misleading information about the ACA enrollment period and the penalties for failing to enroll were used to create a sense of urgency so that consumers would make hasty and costly decisions. Many other types of scams were reported in other areas of Maryland and around the United States. This year, the Office on Aging and the Office of Consumer Affairs have joined forces to help consumers identify and avoid health insurance scams. "Avoiding Medicare and Health Insurance Scams during Open Enrollment" provides guidance on what to look out for and how to stay safe from the most common scams. The tip sheet is available [online](#).

Consumers looking for free, confidential and unbiased Medicare information can contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 410-313-7392 or by e-mailing ship@howardcountymd.gov. Consumers who receive suspicious offers of help to enroll in the exchanges can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 or by e-mail at consumer@howardcountymd.gov.

Aging in Place Home Repair Funding!

Since 2005, Columbia Association and the Howard County Office on Aging have partnered to help older adults age in place, providing financial assistance to qualified CA homeowners who cannot otherwise pay for accessibility or repair expenses for their homes. For more information, please see the full news release on CA's website, <http://bit.ly/1iiiVAp>

Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest **November 2014** edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2014-2015

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details, call **410-313-1675**.

Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	February 4
David Force Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 28
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 14
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	January 8 and 22; February 5 and 19
Schooley Mill Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 7, 15, 21 and 29
West Friendship Park (Wounded Soldiers Hunt)	
Bow & Shotgun	December 17; February 11
Wincopin Trail	
Bow Hunting	February 12

Free Financial Coaching!

A new program, MyBudgetCoach, was launched in Howard County by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families and individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at petakl@makingchangecenter.org if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit www.makingchangecenter.org.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps in Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing. For more details, click [here](#) or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is [online](#).



Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the **Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

4H Club: For youth grades 3+. Meets **2nd Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

Art Attack: Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1st and 2nd Mondays**. Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

Columbia Teen Center **410-992-3726**

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

Voices For Change <http://hcv4c.org/> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call **410-730-6030**.

Scholarships For Students!

As an educator, I know the value and importance of education. I also know that many families often struggle with financing the dream. Below is a sample of scholarships available. I encourage your students to apply early.

GE – Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program

Deadline: January 8, 2015; **Award:** \$10,000 renewable for up to \$40,000

Description: For HS seniors with leadership, drive, integrity and citizenship who embody the characteristics of President Ronald Reagan in the community, in the work place and at home. Strong academic performance and financial need are required. Apply online at www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships



Towson University – Fischer Scholarship Program

Deadline: February 1, 2015; **Award:** Full cost of in-state tuition and fees. Renewable for up to 4 years.

Description: The Jess & Mildred Fisher College of Science & Math offers 2 scholarships for students committed to a major in a program housed in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. Complete application form (available [online](#)), personal statement, submit HS transcript, SAT/ACT scores and two letters of recommendation.

Roanoke College Scholars Program

Deadline: 1/5/15 for February; **Award:** \$190,000 over four years

Description: Be a prospective college freshman seeking first-time fall enrollment. You must also be accepted to the College prior to the competition.

Students with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in a rigorous academic curriculum should consider applying for the Scholars Program

Specific Focus: Roanoke College (www.roanoke.edu/scholars)

National Co-op Scholarship Program

Deadline: 2/15/15; **Award:** Varies

Description: Encourages minority and female students as well as students interested in STEM to apply for this merit co-op scholarship. 3.5 or better GPA, completed application and a 200 word essay. Application to a WACE Partner Institution: Clarkson Univ., Drexel Univ., Johnson & Wales Univ., Kettering Univ., Merrimack College, Rochester Institute of Tech., SUNY Oswego, Univ. of Cincinnati, Univ. of Mass. Lowell, Univ. of Toledo, Wentworth Institute of Tech. Complete application online. Early applications highly encouraged.

Specific focus: WACE Partner Institutions. Minority, female, STEM.

Contact: www.waceinc.org, Marty Ford at marty_ford@uml.edu

Ithaca College – Park Scholar Award

Deadline: 12/1/14; **Award:** full cost of attendance (including tuition, stipends, books and computer), renewable for a total of 4 years.

Description: Counselor nomination is not required, but encouraged. www.ithaca.edu/parkscholars

Specific Focus: Ithaca College – Roy H. Park School of Communications

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

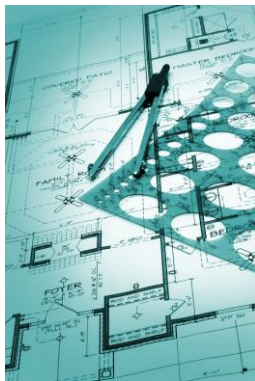
To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services. They provide programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!



HC Housing is accepting applications for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications are available at Housing's office in the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3rd floor in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and not eligible.

For more information, contact Deborah Gillen at 410-313-3508 DGillen@howardcountymd.gov.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at **410-884-RIDE (7433)** or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A calendar of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
[District 2](#)
[Email Me](#)
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved"
~ **Mattie Stepanek**